

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MZA
SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN ANGOLA

1. ON MARCH 3, PORTUGUESE REP BRIEFED POLADS ON ANGOLA.
THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION COMES FROM THE PORTUGUESE
EMBASSY IN LUANDA.

2. PRESIDENT NETO HAS LAUNCHED AN "OPERATION COBRA" TO
REGAIN GOVERNMENT CONTROL IN CABINDA, WHERE THE LIBER-
ATION FRONT CONTROLS "VAST AREAS" AND THE GOVERNMENT CON-
TROLS "WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY" ONLY THE MORE IMPORTANT
POPULATION CENTERS AND TERRITORIAL ROADS.

3. IN NORTHERN ANGOLA, THE SITUATION IS "ALMOST IMPOS-
SIBLE" AND THE FNLA IS VERY ACTIVE AND ATTACKING IN
THE PROVINCES OF ZAIRE, UIGE, AND QUANZA NORT, WHERE
THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLS ONLY THE MAIN CITIES. TRANSIT
BETWEEN THESE PROVINCES AND LUANDA IS NOW MAINLY BY MILI-
TARY CONVOY. FNLA TROOPS ARE REPOTEDLY ACTIVE, TOO,
IN THE OUTSKTS OF DALANTANDO.

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4. IN SOUTHERN ANGOLA, THE SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE
OF HUAMBO IS "ALMOST DESPERATE". UNITA GUERRILLAS ARE
EXTENDING THEIR ACTIVITIES IN ALL DIRECTIONS AND ATTACKING
THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL, WHERE THEY MORTARED THE
FOOTBALL FIELD DURING THE PERIOD OF FEBRUARY 21-25.
BOTH UNITA AND THE GOVERNMENT FORCES HAVE TAKEN " VERY
TOUGH" MEASURES WITH THE POPULATION. STRAUZ-HUPE

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